



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DUE TO DROUGHT, SWIM BEACHES AT CASTAIC LAKE STATE
RECREATION AREA UNLIKELY TO OPEN FOR SUMMER 2014**

Due to extremely low water levels caused by drought conditions, swim beaches at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area will be unavailable for public use this summer, Los Angeles County officials announced today.

Under normal circumstances, the Castaic Lake swim beaches would be open Thursday-Sunday from the last week of May until Sept. 1. This year, receding water levels have created conditions that Department of Parks and Recreation officials have deemed unsafe, particularly for patrons who may lack advanced swimming skills.

Director Russ Guiney said that while the swim beach closure is unfortunate, safety is the department's top priority. "As families begin planning for summer recreation, it is important that they be able to make informed choices," he said. "Castaic Lake remains a wonderful place to visit, with a variety of options for fun, healthy recreation — but the state drought emergency is affecting many aspects of life in California, and we will not compromise on matters of safety. We encourage people to visit this scenic area for the many other recreational opportunities it provides."

As of now, no other activities at Castaic Lake are being curtailed in response to the drought. Kayaking, float tube fishing and stand-up paddle boarding are expected to be available as normal; however, in the event that water levels continue to fall, those and other aquatic activities at Castaic Lake — motorized boating, for example — may also be negatively affected. Before making plans to visit Castaic Lake, patrons are urged to call (661) 257-4050 for the latest information on conditions at the lake.

"We will be closely monitoring drought conditions as they relate to aquatic recreation," said Superintendent Lori Bennett. "We will be making constant safety evaluations, as part of our commitment to ensuring that all who visit can have confidence that their families will have a safe and fun experience at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area."

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